

REMARKS

The specification is amended to update the status of the Cross-Reference to Related Applications. This application is a 371 continuation of copending International Patent Application Serial No. PCT/US2004/012246, filed 22 April 2004, which claims the benefit of US Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/465,663, filed 25 April 2003.

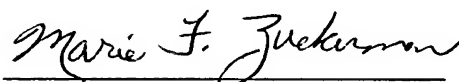
Claim 3 is amended to remove multiple dependency by amendment to depend solely from Claim 1.

Claim 20 is amended to remove multiple dependency, by amendment to depend solely from Claim 18.

Claims 18, 21, 24, and 26 are amended to delete bold-face statements indicating where support can be found in the specification for the amendments made at the International Preliminary stage of prosecution.

Applicants believe that the amended claims stand in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie F. Zuckerman
Registration No. 31,315
Phone: 203-248-3907

P. O. Box 1967
Midland, MI 48641-1967

MFZ/akm